

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJ: FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTS TRUDEAU POSTPONING
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

1. THE GAZETTE OF MONTREAL PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING
ARTICLE, SEPT 20, BY BOGDAN KIPLING, WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES, REPORTING THAT
PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WOULD ADDRESS THE UNGA NEXT WEEK
BUT HAD POSTPONED A PROJECTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
FORD IN WASHINGTON:

BEGIN QUOTE: WASHINGTON -- PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WILL
ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK
BUT HE IS NOT PLANNING A SIDE TRIP TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

INFORMATION OBTAINED IN OTTAWA AND NOT DENIED HERE
MAKES CLEAR THAT TRUDEAU WILL TAKE PART IN UN PRO-
CEEDINGS WHERE CANADA'S INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS CRISIS
MAKES HIS PRESENCE APPROPRIATE. CANADIAN TROOPS SERVE
WITH THE UN IN CYPRUS AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND SEVERAL
CANADIAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN RECENT MONTHS.
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STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE SAYING LAST WEEK THAT TRUDEAU WOULD BE 'WELCOME' TO CALL ON PRESIDENT GERALD FORD WERE HE GOING TO THE UN IN NEW YORK.

BUT APPARENTLY OTTAWA DECIDED THAT A TRIP TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE WELL ADVISED. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN SOURCES A MEETING WITH FORD WOULD REQUIRE FAR MORE PREPARATION THAN FORD'S BRIEF TENURE AT THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ALLOWED.

CANADA AND THE U.S. HAVE SOME PROBLEMS TO SORT OUT, CHIEFLY IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY. THE UNITED STATES IS FACING A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF NATURAL GAS DURING THE COMING WINTER AND SUPPLIES FROM CANADA ARE VITAL, PARTICULARLY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND MID-WESTERN REGIONS.

BUT CANADA'S POLICY OF LOOKING AFTER ITS OWN NEEDS FIRST PRECLUDES ANY INCREASE IN GAS EXPORT LICENSES AT THIS TIME AND BRITISH COLUMBIA IS PLANNING TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PRICE FOR THE GAS IT IS ABLE TO SPARE.

OTTAWA SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT A CHAT BETWEEN TRUDEAU AND FORD WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO HELP THAT SITUATION.

THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION IN CANADA THAT TRUDEAU MIGHT JOIN THE LIST OF VISITING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO WASHINGTON SOON AFTER FORD TOOK OVER WITH WASHINGTON IS WIDE OPEN. THE VISIT HERE LAST WEEK BY FINANCE MINISTER JOHN TURNER IS CITED AS PROOF THAT ALL IS WELL ALONG THE UNDEFENDED BORDER.

TURNER AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALLAN MACEACHEN WILL BE COMING TO WASHINGTON SEPT 29-30 IF THE CONFERENCE OF MAJOR OIL-CONSUMING COUNTRIES TAKES PLACE AT CAMP DAVID, AS NOW SCHEDULED. END QUOTE.
PORTER

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